GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2853
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017
Recognition of Yoga by UNESCO
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has formally inscribed Yoga in its representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity recently;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the benefits behind such an inscription;
(d) whether the declaration describes Yoga, an ancient Indian practice as a Human Treasure; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) to (e) : Yes, Madam. India's proposal for inscribing Yoga on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was unanimously supported by all the 24 members of the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in its 11th session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December, 2016. The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage adopted in 2003 proposes a set of measures for safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to be implemented at the national and international level. A fund to finance programmes, projects and other activities has also been established under the 2003 conventions. UNESCO, while inscribing Yoga as the 13th intangible cultural heritage from India, has, inter alia, mentioned that ancient Indian practice of yoga has influenced various aspects of how society in India functions.
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